

FORM B - BUILDING

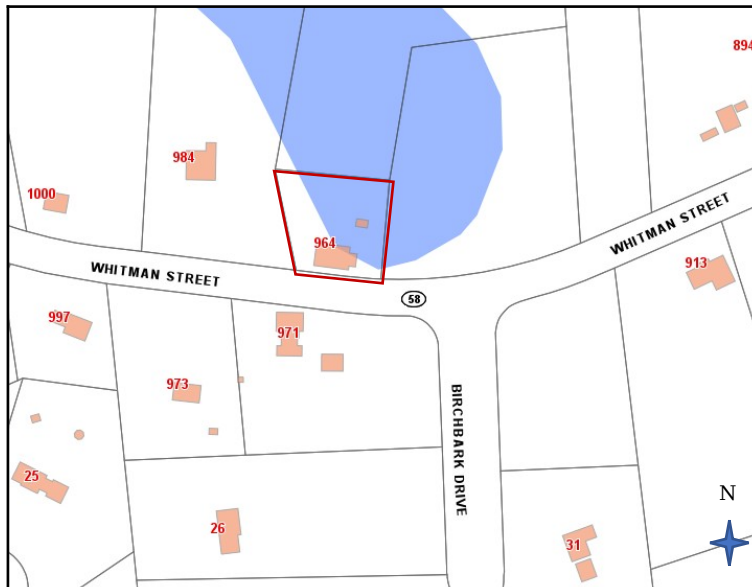
Date (*month / year*): May 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

101-0-1-0

Hanover

HNS.269

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
North Hanson

Address: 964 Whitman Street

Historic Name: Samuel Josselyn Blacksmith
Shop/ John Willet Jr. House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Blacksmith Shop

Date of Construction: ca. 1820

Source: White's History, Plan No. 3, Page 46,
No. 67

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Samuel Josselyn

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Rectangular shed located to northeast of house
behind parking area

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Dormers and
fenestrations (added after c.1837), additions to
west and north facades, deck on east façade, and
vinyl replacement windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☐ yes ☒ **Date:**

ca. 1837

Acreage: 0.5 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main
thoroughfares, Route 58, in an area of single-
family homes ranging from early eighteenth
century farmhouses to late twentieth century
suburban development on large open lots
bordered by low stone walls and fencing which are
characterized grass lawns scattered with
numerous mature trees, bushes, and other

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story, Cape style, single-family home has an asphalt-shingled gable style roof with two wall dormers on the south, street-facing façade, a shed-roofed addition to the north and a long, single-story addition to the west façade. The main Cape style house has projecting eaves on the gable façade which are finished with wide, flat boards below the eaves. The roof ends flush with the gable-end facades with a single, narrower band of trim along the eave. The wood shingle facades have cornerboards and wide wood boards projecting upper edges serving encircling the lower edge of the building. The double hung windows are a mix of one-over-one and six-over-one vinyl replacement windows.

The house faces south towards Whitman Street and is located close to the road. The front façade is one-and-a-half stories tall with two narrow, gable-end wall dormers. Each dormer has a pediment above a large replacement window with a vertical board center. Flat wood trim boards along the outer edges widen at the lower corners of the pediment into boxy returns and wrap the corners with a heavy band of trim around the eaves. The dormers break through the eaves, which project out to either side of its windows, and are centered over the door on the right and a pair of double hung windows on the left. The entrance has a narrow band or projecting trim across the top of its frame over a narrow recessed panel. Within the wide door frame, a replacement entry door with a long single pane over a low wood panel is located to the left of a tall recessed sidelight.

On the west facade, the one-story addition has a salt-box style gable roof with a wide overhang across its south façade. The overhang is finished with a wide wood trim board that is flush with the south façade of the main house. A large three-part bay window extends out from the center of the façade to the edge of the overhang. The center panel has a square picture window and is flanked by double hung windows with recessed panels below. On the west façade, a wide rectangular exterior chimney extends through the peak of the roof, narrowing on the right side at the top of the first floor and extending into a wide corbeled top edge. A narrow awning window is located to the right of the chimney and a single double hung window is located to its left.

On the east façade, the north slope of the roof extends down to just short of the south façade before extending out over the shed roofed addition to the north. The north façade addition is flush with the east façade of the house, with a flat band of trim located to the right of the bend in the roofline, leading to the question of whether this is a later addition or an original element of the house. Two double hung windows of different sizes are located in the gable-end over two windows on the first floor. A side entrance and double hung window is located in the shed-roofed addition to the north façade. The entrance has a wood door leading to a wide wood deck that extends across the east façade. A tall wood railing with square balusters is located along the north and east sides of the porch, and a set of brick steps are centered on the south façade. A second deck with composite railings is visible around the northeast corner on the north façade of the house.

The house is located on a relatively small, open lot surrounded by grass lawn. Wood railroad tie planting beds are located to the east of the house around the deck and brick front walkway, which leads to the deck and not

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the front door. The door opens directly into the yard at this time. The east side of the property is an asphalt paved driveway and parking area. Behind the driveway is a long gambrel-roofed shed finished in T-111 vertical wood board siding. The shed has been extended on the east with a recessed opening across its south façade for storage. Mature trees are located in the yard to the north and surround the property. A metal guard rail extends along the south property line from the driveway to the west corner of the site.

A 2012 Google Earth Image shows that the south façade has been altered relatively recently. The 2012 photos show an earlier front door and surround with a wider and narrower header above the door and no sidelights, two twelve-over-nine windows with wood shutters to the left of the door, and a large multi-paned window with six-over-nine double hung windows on either side in the bay window on the west façade addition. This photo confirms that the existing door and door frame, paired window frames, and wood paneled bay are all recent replacement elements.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's *History of Hanson*, 964 Whitman Street is a former blacksmith and wheelwright shop that was moved to this location around 1837 from its original location on the Samuel Josselyn property on what was then Josselyn Place (now Glenwood Place). White's *History* bases this statement on memories of a Mrs. Caleb Arnold, who shared details about the structure's handmade nails and its move during her childhood. Samuel W. Josselyn (1772-1859) was a local farmer born in Hanover who first appears in Hanson on the 1820 U.S. Census. This suggests that if the structure was originally built for Josselyn's farm, it was originally constructed between 1811 and 1837.

The existing house appears on the 1856 Walling Map as the home of John Willett Jr. on what was then Spring Street. John Willet Jr. (1802-1881) is listed on the 1855 Massachusetts Census as a carpenter. He married Betsey R. Tubbs in Hanson in 1823 and in 1834, purchased a half acre of land on the north side of what is now Whitman Street from Cornelius Cobb.¹ At that time, no buildings are listed on the deed for the property. By 1855, the couple is listed in the state Census as living on the property with two children still in the house. John Willet is still shown living here on the 1879 Walker Atlas and is again listed on the 1880 Census as a carpenter. After John's death in 1881, the property was sold in 1883 to Rebecca Ann Ray of Fall River. In 1887, Ray sold the property to Waldo Drake, who is listed on the 1903 Richards Atlas, at which point the street was now Whitman Street, and is mentioned by White as the owner of the property in the 1930s. Waldo is listed on the 1910 U.S. Census as a laster for a local shoe factory. Both his wife, Hannah, and daughter worked at the shoe factory as stitchers and a second daughter worked as a stripper at a box factory. Waldo Drake died in 1930, and his estate sold the house that same year to William C. and Margaret Goodrich of Lynn.² The Goodriches do not appear in local directories and soon after sold the house to Bernard and Helen Bearce.³ Bernard worked at the saw mill and sold the property to its current owners, Michael and Melissa Lagambina, in 2001.⁴

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 179, Page 126

² Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1600, Page 397

³ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1982, Page 398

⁴ Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 19260, Page 39

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